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NEW YORK, NY—On November 30th, also known as Bonifacio Day, Anakbayan New York celebrates the revolutionary tradition of Filipino youth in recommitting itself to the struggle for national democracy and the basic rights and welfare for the Filipino people from New York to Mindanao.

On this day, we honor the birth of the great revolutionary hero, Andres Bonifacio, who, well over a century ago, fought and died for the liberation of the Filipino people from Spanish colonization and for democracy. Alongside his comrades, he established the Katipunan to raise the red flag of liberation and struggle for national democracy in the old era of colonialism. It was unfortunate that the revolution was interrupted by traitors who sought only to elevate their status and increase the wealth of a privileged few who would once again sell out the country to new foreign masters, the U.S. imperialists.

However, the birth of Kabataang Makabayan reminds us that the revolution still carried forward. On November 30, 1964, youth and students formed Kabataang Makabayan (KM) to revive and carry out the revolutionary legacy of Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan. KM rose as a revolutionary organization that saw the need to organize students and youth to aide the peasant and working-class struggle. They were able to organize study groups that awakened a revolutionary way of thinking amongst the youth. The efforts of Kabataang Makabayan brought many students away from climbing the social ladder of Philippine society and pushed them towards taking up militant struggle for national liberation in the countryside. The students who would have become professionals to serve the ruling-class sellouts, US Imperialists, and big landlords became revolutionaries who were willing to learn from the masses and wage a vigorous struggle against oppression.

With the creation of the Kabataang Makabayan, we see a continuity from the revolution waged by the Filipino masses against Spanish colonialism and feudalism. To further commemorate the birth of Andres Bonifacio, we recognize the work of the Katipunan, a

revolutionary organization of workers and peasants who were able to ultimately overthrow Spanish colonialism and establish a genuine democracy for their nation. Many key organizers in the Katipunan drew lessons from the Propaganda Movement, which was a movement led by upper-class and Spanish-educated Filipinos. Those who came to create the Katipunan saw the mistakes of the Propaganda Movement, being that it was a reformist movement that was not led by the most oppressed classes of the current society. The Katipunan took the correct ideas and practice from the Propaganda Movement and threw away what was incorrect. Through their work, they continued the experiment of rebellion against Spanish colonization and realized that they could only destroy the oppression of their nation by means of violent armed struggle.

As the crisis and contradictions in the Philippines continue to grow, the movement grows larger. As the conditions worsen, the youth grow more agitated and join the armed struggle. Instead of addressing the root causes of poverty in the Philippines, Duterte has decided to instead crack down on the revolutionary mass movements. Not only does martial law in Mindanao continue to embolden the PNP and AFP to commit human rights violations against human rights activists and the people, but it has emboldened Duterte to make threats against legal mass organizations and to act on them.

Filipino youth in New York face their own oppressions and struggles and as Anakbayan, we must link these struggles with those of the masses in the Philippines. As the New York public education system becomes more inaccessible and militarized, as Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) continues to raid schools, courthouses, and homes-- tearing families apart-- and as gentrification continues to threaten working-class families with displacement, we must draw these issues of harassment, militarization, lack of social services, and displacement to the issues of landlessness and poverty in the Philippines that force our kababayan to leave their homeland in the first place.

We call on the Filipino youth, here in the belly of the beast, to demand an end to the US domination of the Philippines and puppet presidency of Duterte. It is the duty and task of the youth to agitate, organize and mobilize the masses, to strike US imperialism from within and to advocate for genuine change.

***MAKIBAKA! HUWAG MATAKOT! DARE TO STRUGGLE! DON'T BE AFRAID!
LUMALUKAS, LUMALUWAK, LUMALABAN! ANAKBAYAN!***

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